

in order to ensure healthy physical and emotional development of their children. Living in poverty also greatly hinders a child's access to quality education, health care, and living conditions. This is unacceptable. Children are a public good, and it is imperative that our country invests in and ensures the prosperity of its youngest citizens.

The unemployment rate in my home state of Illinois, which was higher than the national average, was 10.1 percent this past August up 4.6 percentage points from December 2007. This represents 671,000 Illinois residents who lost more than just earnings—this represents hundreds of thousands of families whose entire means of financial support is gone. This massive unemployment rate has contributed greatly to the high foreclosure rate in Illinois. In Illinois as of the second quarter of 2010, 6.0 percent of all mortgages, including 18.1 percent of subprime mortgages, were in foreclosure.

Alarming as well is the way that this economic downturn has hit some communities much harder than others. According to the most recent congressional Joint Economic Committee findings, the poverty rate for African Americans and Hispanics increased significantly from 2007 to 2009. In 2009, the poverty rate was 25.8 percent for African Americans and 25.3 percent for Hispanics, compared to 24.5 percent for African Americans and 21.5 percent for Hispanics in 2007. Important to notice as well is the disparity in the number of minorities currently insured. The percentages of Hispanics and African Americans without health insurance are higher than that of whites and other racial or ethnic groups. Nearly one-third of Hispanics and over one-fifth of African Americans were uninsured in 2009, compared with about one-tenth of whites.

While the number of people living in poverty remains much too high, we must recognize that this number was not as high as originally expected given the severity of the recession and the massive job losses last year. I am proud of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act passed by Congress this past year that expanded unemployment benefits and Social Security payments. This act also helped to create and save approximately 3.5 million jobs, gave tax cuts to small business and 95 percent of American workers, and began to rebuild America's road, rail, and water infrastructure. Access to the job market is one of the first steps in helping individuals rise out of poverty, and this legislation increased jobs for the unemployed as well as the underemployed.

This past year we have begun to reform our current healthcare system and passed legislation that enables 11 million children to finally be able to access and maintain cost-effective quality healthcare. Signed into law as well was the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act, which guarantees access to life-saving medical services, primary care, and medications for low-income patients with AIDS and HIV. Both of these legislative acts will greatly enhance the well being of individuals with limited financial resources.

While there remains much to be done to improve access to quality education, healthcare, and job opportunities in the United States, I am proud of the progress that has been made by this Congress. It is imperative that in this current economic crisis, the Federal govern-

ment assists state governments in addressing the needs of individuals and their families. Our communities cannot afford to allow poverty to take hold of so many hard working individuals and families. Therefore, I recognize all of those living in poverty in the United States, and, in the spirit of this season, I promise to continue to promote programs to reduce poverty and support those in need.

#### FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 8, 2010*

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of today's legislation to make important national investments and protect food safety.

The FY 11 Continuing Resolution will fund government operations at FY 2010 levels through the end of the current fiscal year. At \$45.9 billion less than President Obama originally requested, Chairman OBEY and the rest of the Appropriations Committee obviously had a very difficult set of choices to make, and I want to commend their efforts to address the nation's needs within the context of these significant fiscal constraints. In particular, I am gratified that today's bill provides \$5.7 billion to meet the current shortfall in the Pell Grant program and gives the Department of Energy latitude to expand the Advanced Research Projects Agency—or ARPA-E—program designed to advance transformative energy research. At the same time, I do not support the provision unilaterally freezing non-military federal pay for the next 2 years. While I agree with the President that we must have a serious national debate about how to reduce the deficit and tackle the national debt, I would prefer to address our budget challenges in a thorough, comprehensive way.

While I would prefer adoption of the stronger food safety legislation passed by the House, the Senate-passed FDA Food Safety Modernization Act we are considering today does make substantial improvements to our food safety system. It includes critical reforms that will improve food safety by providing FDA with the necessary authority to better prevent outbreaks, including increased inspections, enhanced surveillance and traceability.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a yes vote.

#### CYRIL ADOLPHUS BARNES CELEBRATES HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN**

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, December 13, 2010*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of our very own Virgin Islanders, Cyril Adolphus Barnes, as he celebrates his 100th birthday of December 22, 2010.

Mr. Barnes was born on St. Croix on December 22, 1910, to Philip Barnes and Mary Eliza King. He was raised surrounded by strong family members including George Jack-

son, Headmaster of the then Christiansted School.

Believing that the mainland United States would provide a better opportunity, in 1926 Mr. Barnes traveled by sea aboard the *Dominica* to New York. He, like many who went to the "big city," soon learned that the streets of New York were not paved in gold and in order to accomplish his goals, he had to work hard.

He did and continued his education. In 1943, he enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served until his honorable discharge in 1946. Returning back to civilian life, he became employed by the U.S. Postal Service, retiring in 1979.

After spending 53 years on the mainland, Mr. Barnes relocated back to his birthplace of St. Croix, where among other community involvements, he became an active member of American Legion Post No. 85.

In March of 1929, he married Gerda Barnes, also from St. Croix and they became the parents of two children, Leroy and Doretha Barnes Stevens (both deceased). He had three other children, Maria Barnes (deceased), Harold Barnes and Violet Barnes Hughes. His family also includes six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. He has numerous friends and family members that will be celebrating his 100 years of life.

On behalf of myself, my staff, the entire Virgin Islands community and the Congress of the United States, I say "Mr. Barnes, thank you for your service and we wish you a Happy Birthday and many more years filled with God's richest blessings."

#### FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 8, 2010*

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I would like the following remarks to be inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for H.R. 3082, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act 2011.

The Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act 2011 provides important protections to the United States food supply. However, it targets much of its focus on "facilities" as defined and registered under the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (the "Bioterrorism Act"), codified in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act at Section 415 (21 U.S.C. Sec. 350d). That reference to "facilities" registered under the Bioterrorism Act has led to confusion. While some companies may have registered their operations as "facilities" under the Bioterrorism Act in an abundance of caution, those companies should not now become subject to the full range of FDA's jurisdiction as a result of this Bill.

It was never the intent of this legislation to include seed production or storage establishments in the definition of "facility", for purposes of either FFDCA Sec. 415 or for the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act 2011. In many respects, these establishments are similar to farms, which are exempted from Sec. 415's definition of "facility". Nevertheless, earlier lack of clarity as to Congress's intent